

CHECKLIST

REMEMBER 9-1-1 MAY SAVE SOMEONE’S LIFE.

**FOOD SUPPLIES.** Is your home well stocked with supplies for 7 days? If not, you are not prepared to be a mountain resident. Always keep extra food items stored for emergencies. Canned goods, powdered milk, dry staple goods are all a necessity.

**MEDICAL SUPPLIES.** Check your medicine cabinets. Do you have the basic medicines for an unexpected injury or illness? If you require weekly prescription refills, check with your doctor regarding shelf life of your medications. If possible, order an extra two or three week supply.

**FLASHLIGHTS/RADIOS.** Do you have battery-operated flashlights, kerosene lamps, candles, and battery-operated radios in case of power failures?

**HEATING.** Do you have alternative heating sources? If you have a fireplace, keep plenty of dry wood available. Check your fireplace for obstructions that may prevent free airflow. Fires, smoke damage, and suffocation can result from chimneys and heating furnaces that cannot properly vent outside.

**BOTTLED WATER.** Keep bottled water (one gallon per person, per day) available for emergency use in case pipes freeze or water lines break.

**NEIGHBORS.** Get to know your neighbors. You may have to depend on them in case of emergencies.

**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS.** Keep utility companies, doctors, hospitals, fire, and law enforcement numbers handy.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION :

**WEATHER FORECASTS** may be obtained by calling your local radio station. Weather updates are also available on your local TV cable channel 6. Road conditions for State of California highways are available by dialing 800-427-ROAD (7623).

**SNOW PLOW OPERATORS.** Please do not stop the snowplow operators to ask questions or comment on the service. Snowplow drivers are assigned specific areas and cannot plow other areas unless directed by their supervisor. If you need information about snowplowing, you should call the Road Yard Supervisor. Remember, some snowplow drivers are not residents of your area and may not be familiar with situations peculiar to your neighborhood. Also, snowplows cost the County about \$90.00 an hour to operate and we want to keep them on the move as much as possible.

**FUNDING.** Many people appear to believe that snow removal and cinder spreading costs are paid out of property taxes. However, property taxes do not pay for snow removal or cinder spreading costs. These funds come from the State Highway Users Tax, also known as gas tax. The State tax you pay as part of the cost of fuel for your car. These funds are kept separately by the State and allocated proportionately on an annual basis to each County. When snow removal and cinder spreading costs exceed the amount allocated to the County by the State, it means that other road maintenance projects in your area may have to be delayed in order to pay for these immediate additional costs. Although there are other maintenance funds available such as Prop 1B, Prop 42, Measure I etc., new or additional service levels must be re-evaluated based upon the overall condition of the road network and reduced funding.

CONTACT US:

Listed below are the County Road Yard telephone numbers:

ANGELUS OAKS (Yard 5).....	(909) 387-8073
BIG BEAR (Yard 9).....	(909) 866-2167
BLUE JAY (Yard 8).....	(909) 336-7509
CRESTLINE (Yard 7).....	(909) 338-2140
FOREST FALLS (Yard 5).....	(909) 387-8073
LYTLE CREEK (Yard 3).....	(909) 823-8811
MT. BALDY/CHINO (Yard 1).....	(909) 823-7514
RUNNING SPRINGS (Yard 4).....	(909) 867-3683
WRIGHTWOOD (Yard 11).....	(760) 949-0335

**ROAD YARD SUPERVISORS** are usually only available by telephone between the hours of 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. At other times, they are working in the field. However, you may leave a message on the telephone answering machine.

**EMERGENCY CALLS** may be directed to the Department of Public Works (909-387-8063) or the County Communications Center at (909-356-3805) after 5:00 p.m. weekdays or on weekends and holidays.

**SNOWPLOW-RELATED CLAIMS** may be directed to the Risk Management Division, (909) 386-8631.

PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE

BY THE  
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Brad Mitzelfelt**  
**First District**

**Paul Biane**  
**Second District**

**Neil Derry**  
**Third District**

**Gary Ovitt**  
**Fourth District**

**Josie Gonzales**  
**Fifth District**

MESSAGE FROM THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Snow-removal operations are part of the County road budget which is financed through our share of State allocations from gasoline sales taxes and vehicle registration fees. Over 2,800 miles of County roads must be maintained throughout the year with these rather limited funds.

The necessity for serving mountain-area residents in a comparatively short, but devastating snow season can seriously affect the road maintenance program for the entire County. We ask your patience and understanding during these times.



SNOWPLOWS,  
CINDER SPREADING  
AND  
PROPERTY DAMAGE

KEEP THIS PAMPHLET HANDY  
DURING THE SNOW SEASON !!

Presented as a Public Service  
by the  
County of San Bernardino  
Board of Supervisors



Prepared by  
Risk Management Department  
222 West Hospitality Lane, Third Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0016  
(909) 386-8631

## SAFETY FIRST!

**CHILDREN.** A snowstorm can be a delightful experience for a child, however, caution your child not to slide down driveways onto streets. Hillsides and driveways are dangerous playgrounds, and a child on a sled is no match for a vehicle on an icy road.

Also, KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM THE SNOWPLOWS AND CINDER SPREADING EQUIPMENT as they are dangerous pieces of equipment.

## SNOW REMOVAL/CINDERING

As snow removal and cinder spreading operations go into effect in your area, chances are someone will experience damage to their personal property. This pamphlet is designed to give you tips to avoid property damage, what to do if you find property damage and also to share information about County Codes and Regulations relating to snow removal and cinder spreading damage.

Unless you have to get out of your driveway immediately, save yourself some shoveling chores. San Bernardino County snow removal crews make two passes on each side of the road. Wait until the second pass before opening your driveway.

**SHOVELING OUT YOUR DRIVEWAY.** Throw the snow to the right as you face the road, and you will be following the snowplows pattern. Snow thrown to the left will be brought back onto the driveway on the next pass. Snowplows remove snow from left to right.

**CUL-DE-SACS** are plowed differently due to the inability for most snowplows to turn around in the small area. Snowplows remove snow from the far left and push it to the right. The snowplow will then back up and again push the snow over the right side of the road.

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR SNOW REMOVAL.** There are several agencies which may be responsible for snow removal and cinder spreading. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Works is responsible for snow removal on most of the roads that are in the County maintained system. DO NOT

ASSUME THAT ALL SNOWPLOWS AND CINDER SPREADING EQUIPMENT BELONG TO THE COUNTY. The County does hire private non-County contractors and their equipment to help clear snow. These contractors are required to provide *their own insurance coverage*, and are liable for any and all damage caused by their negligence.

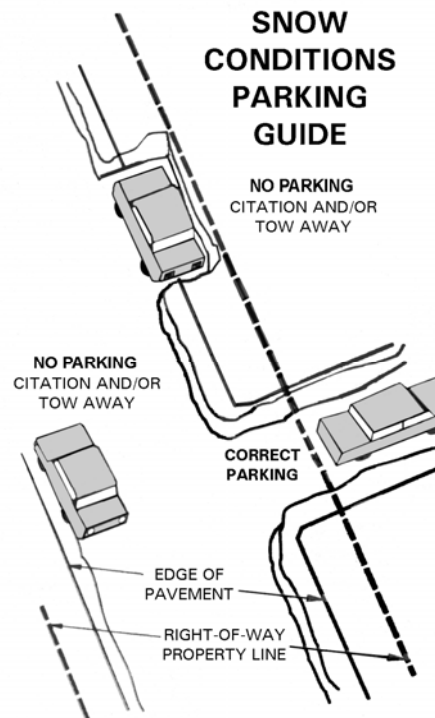
**CALTRANS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SNOW REMOVAL AND CINDER SPREADING ON STATE HIGHWAYS.** There are also a few areas where snow removal is performed under contract by County Special Districts Department. In some areas, private citizens and businesses also plow snow for their own benefit.

## HOW TO AVOID PROPERTY DAMAGE

1. DO NOT PARK YOUR VEHICLE WHERE IT WILL BLOCK SNOWPLOWS OR WHERE SNOW, ICE OR CINDERS CAN BE THROWN OR PUSHED AGAINST IT BY THE SNOWPLOW or equipment. San Bernardino County Code provides that ANY VEHICLE INTERFERING WITH SNOW REMOVAL OR CINDER SPREADING OPERATIONS WILL BE CITED WITH A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$250. This Code also PROHIBITS PARKING ON STATE OR COUNTY ROADWAYS WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH SNOW REMOVAL OR CINDER SPREADING OPERATIONS. VEHICLES FOUND IN VIOLATION WILL BE CITED AND/OR TOWED AWAY.
2. If you must leave your vehicle near the edge of the roadway where it will be near snow removal or cinder spreading operations, **PARK IT OFF THE ROAD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.** It will help if you are able to dig an area to get your car further back off the road – even half a vehicle width helps. **FLAG YOUR VEHICLE** using a broomstick, colored flag or any other device that would help snowplow drivers spot a snow-covered vehicle. Flagging helps protect your vehicle, but you are still subject to citation and/or towing of your vehicle should your vehicle impede snow removal operations.
3. Check the location of your walls, fences, lightposts, shrubbery and sprinkler systems. These items are virtually invisible as the snow gets deeper and should also be marked with red poles and flags when near the roadway. If small

boats and trailers are stored on your property, they should be well away from the roadway. Consideration should also be given to providing additional space for visitor parking so your winter guests will not be subject to citations, towing, and possible vehicle damage.

Damage to any improvements installed on the County right-of-way without benefit of a permit is the responsibility of the property owner. If you have any questions about the need for permits, call the County Transportation Permit Section at (909) 387-8046.



## IF PROPERTY DAMAGE OCCURS

If your property is damaged during snow removal or cinder spreading operations, it will be in your best interest to obtain as much of the following information as possible:

1. Know the date of the occurrence, time and exact location.

2. Get a description of the vehicle (blower, blade or bucket), the color of the vehicle, vehicle number and any emblems or insignias.
3. Get the driver's name and his employer.
4. Take pictures of damage if possible.

After obtaining this information, you should call the Road Yard Supervisor in your area and explain the damage to them. They will usually be able to tell you who plowed the street and direct you to the proper agency, contractor, or person who can help you further on your claim.

If County equipment caused this damage, you will be directed to file a "Claim Against the County" with the Risk Management Division. Claims must be submitted within six months of the occurrence. Be sure and include copies of written estimates of damage and photographs, if possible. Mail to Risk Management, 222 West Hospitality Lane, Third Floor, San Bernardino, Ca 92415-0016.

Following these simple steps will help you expedite handling of your claim. Presenting a "Claim Against the County" is time consuming. You may have to wait, only to find out you have presented a claim to the wrong party. **BE SURE TO CHECK WITH YOUR ROAD YARD SUPERVISOR FIRST BEFORE FILING A CLAIM AGAINST THE COUNTY.**

## OTHER GENERAL TIPS

- **KEEP A SNOW SHOVEL HANDY.** Not only for your home, but carry a spare in your car.
- **CHAINS.** Don't wait for a storm to discover your chains don't fit your tires. Check them first, especially if you have bought new tires. THEN, KEEP THE CHAINS IN YOUR CAR.
- **BE COURTEOUS.** Stormy conditions can bring on short tempers and sometimes, even panic. Allow additional driving time (45 to 60 minutes) during storm conditions. You may run into road closures, heavy fog, icy conditions, or other situations which will delay you.

### ... REMEMBER ...

PROPERTY-OWNER NEGLIGENCE  
CAN NEGATE OR REDUCE ANY  
SNOWPLOW CLAIM